

Spirit of the Age.

RALEIGH, N. C.

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PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY BY

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OUR NEW TERMS.

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We have such a press of interesting news matter to give our readers this week, that we have little or no space to indulge in Editorials.

The Message of Gov. Vance and the current action of the Legislature with his recommendations, will relieve all anxiety about a discrimination against any class of Confederate notes. What course the Legislature will pursue concerning the militia force, we cannot tell; but we hope wise and prudent councils will prevail. With our neighbor of the Progress, we want to see this war closed so that all our people can remain at home, and those brave veterans who have been so long absent return home, but this cannot be at present, and we have either to honor the requisition made upon us and stand by the Government in the prosecution of the war, or abandon a cause we have willingly espoused. We suppose no one wants to do that.

The News of the Week.

Since our last issue, the yankee forces from about Norfolk and Suffolk, to the number of 30,000, were reported to have landed at the White House, below Richmond, with a view to marching upon that city, expecting to make an easy capture of it, all our forces being supposed away with Lee in his march in Maryland and Pennsylvania. But it turned out that some five or six thousand, perhaps less, landed from their transports at White House, perpetrated some damage upon the York river railroad, and burnt some buildings at Tunstall's station, and then returned whence they came, it is presumed, as nothing farther has been heard from them up to the present writing. No alarm was felt at Richmond, even if the most extravagant reports in circulation had proved true. The citizen soldiery turned out in large forces, and besides these, there are enough regular troops within call of Richmond to defend the place against any numbers the yankees can spare now from a defence of its own Capital.

A cavalry raid has, however, been made on the Central railroad above Richmond, inflicting some damage. Some 1200 yankee cavalry started from Tunstall's Station, on the York river railroad below Richmond, on the 27th ultimo, and moving straight up the Pamunkey River arrived at South Anna bridge on the Central Railroad at eleven o'clock, cutting the wires and attacking a body of eighty North-Carolinians guarding the bridge, belonging to the 44th N. C., Col. Singletary. Reinforcements were telegraphed for by Col. Godwin, commanding at Hanover Junction, and they were promptly forwarded, but too late to relieve our gallant troops at the bridge. Unfortunately, Gen. Corse's command had left the Junction a little before in consequence of an unfounded rumor, and gone higher up the road. After a short resistance, the bridge was fired and consumed, our troops falling back. The Fredericksburg road was not damaged at last accounts.

The marauders captured Gen. W. H. F. Lee, at Col. Wickham's residence, where he has been staying since he was disabled at Brandy Station.

The news from Lee's army is obscure and uncertain. It is however positively known that nearly the whole of his army are in Maryland and Pennsylvania, and from the northern papers we learn that they meet little resistance in their victorious march. Our Generals are gathering and sending to their

rear large numbers of cattle, sheep, &c., and are accumulating large numbers of horses and any amount of army supplies, while our boys are providing themselves with every thing they need from the Pennsylvania stores, paying for the same in Confederate money at fair value. Gen. Ewell's forces, or a portion of them, are said to be in possession of Harrisburg, the Pennsylvania capital. For particulars see detailed accounts in other columns of this paper.

The Southern Field and Fireside.

This old favorite literary hebdomadal was forced a few weeks since to suspend its issues for the want of paper to print on. Its publication has now been resumed, and the indomitable proprietor promises great improvements and attractions in the future, not the least of which is handsome illustrations with which to adorn its pages. This paper has long been appreciated for its high literary excellence and valued agricultural information, and we feel sure that in the future it will gain on the public estimation. We cheerfully recommend it as a pleasant and instructive family companion. It is published at Augusta, Ga., price of a year.

The Magnolia Weekly.

W. A. J. Smith, Esq., has become sole Proprietor of this sterling literary Journal, under whose name it will hereafter be conducted, Mr. James D. McCal, jr., as Editor and H. C. Barrow as Associate Editor.

The Magnolia we regard as among the very best literary papers now published in the South. Its corps of Contributors embrace some of the best writers in the Confederacy, with a versatility of talents and subjects—romance and reality—essay drama and the muses. The Editors also wield the pen of gifted and graceful writers. The Magnolia is published in Richmond at \$10 a year; \$6 for six months.

ROASTING EARS.—We return our thanks to Mrs. G. B. Bagwell for a nice mess of green corn received on Thursday morning last. These are the first of the season, that we have heard of, which with a few gathered from our own garden on the same day, furnished us with an ample dish full.

THE LAST YANKEE RAID ON THE CENTRAL RAILROAD.—Last Friday morning a well known gentleman of this city, being at the time on a visit to his farm in Hanover, was taken prisoner by the Yankee raiders, then on their way to the South Anna bridge. He, with some dozen or more citizen of Hanover, were left under guard at the house of Mrs. Nelson, nine miles below the Court House, whilst the yankees proceeded in their work of destruction. When they returned that evening, bringing the thirty-odd of our men taken at the bridge, their commander, Col. Speers, conversed very freely with the citizens. Such of his conversation as has been repeated to us will, we think, be found interesting.

The first subject discussed was the conduct of our men who defended the South Anna bridge. Colonel Speers said, "If all the Confederate men fight as these fifty men have done, this war will last much longer than I have ever expected. Why, sir, some of them used their bayonets, and stabbed several of my men severely, after their breast-works were filled with my men, and they were completely in our power."

In the course of further conversation, the Colonel frequently repeated that that was only a preliminary raid, and that he would certainly return again.

The gentleman through whom we obtained our information, and the other citizens, were carried along with the raiders a considerable distance into King William and then set at liberty.

From our informant's account and information derived from other sources, we are forced to the painful conclusion that our loss of property inflicted on us during this raid more than counterbalances the value of the spoils taken at Winchester. The raiders destroyed three hundred wagons loaded with muskets, all of which were captured at Winchester; carried off the teams of the wagons and all the valuable horses and mules in the country through which they passed, and stole over three hundred valuable negroes. The negroes alone at the present prices were worth more than a half million of dollars.—*Examiner* June 30.

The Examiner of next day, however, makes the following important correction:

There was an error in our statement published yesterday. The fact of the case, as we learn them officially, are that the raiders destroyed at Hanover Court House a train of forty-five wagons, and captured the teams, two hundred mules, belonging to the quartermasters department at Richmond, which at the time were engaged in hauling wheat. They also burnt a warehouse at Hanover Court House, containing two thousand bushels of wheat.

JORDAN'S SPRINGS, NEAR WINCHESTER, June 27th, 1863.

Editor Spirit of the Age:—The battle-field is the worst place on earth to learn the truth. Its excitements and confusion are so great that few men can be found upon it, or about it, who are able to state what they saw or what they know. I wrote you on the 15th inst., as it were, amid the smoke and confusion of the battle-field of Winchester. The smoke and dust have since been blown away and we begin to see things as they really are. Our captures of military stores and equipments have been greater than I had believed when I wrote you.

Gen. Milroy's trunk containing his private papers fell into our hands, and the bragging hero, himself, escaped only at the head of a few cavalry by taking to the woods and fields, and abandoning the roads.

Considering the strongly fortified position they occupied, the yankees made but a cowardly defence; but poor fellows, they had nothing to fight for, and were only obeying the behests of a tyrant.

I have been much amused at an anecdote I heard related since the battle. Some time past a daughter of Gen. Milroy's was present at a party in Winchester, and the bold and daring character of Stonewall Jackson was introduced in the conversation. Miss Milroy, not liking the prominence given to the hero of so many famous fields, impatiently threw in the following remark, which seems to bear the characteristic of the genuine yankee: "I have understood that Pa is the only General in the Federal service that Gen. Jackson is afraid to attack." The character of Milroy in Winchester has been that of an unprincipled tyrant; if he had been taken, and his fate had been left to the ladies of the town, he would no doubt have been doomed to the gallows without benefit of clergy.—The fine family residence of Senator Mason, who is now in England, which was built of stone, was by order of this despot, pulled down and the materials used in building the fortifications, which he afterwards lacked the bravery to defend. Several fine churches met at his hands a fate nearly similar, by the seats and floors being taken out and used for making stalls for his horses. Winchester groaned under the heel of the tyrant for many long and weary months, but if I ever saw a people that rejoiced in soul, body and spirit, they were the people of Winchester on the 15th day of this month.

On Wednesday of last week a severe battle was fought between the cavalry forces of the two armies near Aldie, without being decisive; the loss was heavy on both sides. It was renewed on Sunday near Paris, in which we took about one hundred prisoners, and the yankees were compelled to fall back. Since then they have been quiet in that direction. Our wounded and sick are all being brought to this place where the hospital is established. We have about eleven hundred here at this time. In the battle of last Sunday, the savage barbarity of the yankee character was displayed in its true colors.—A number of our men had been taken by the enemy and were quietly in their possession. By a charge of our cavalry it became apparent to the yankees that their prisoners would be retaken. To prevent this, they resolved to murder them on the spot, and promptly undertook the fiendish work with sword and pistol. Several of North Carolinians sons fell martyrs in this diabolical massacre. A few only survived to tell the mournful tale, but sadly mutilated by wounds. To-day I have talked with a Mr. Finley, from Union county, N. C., who has five sabre wounds on the head and face, given in the effort to murder him in cold blood when he was a helpless prisoner.—I trust the poor fellow will yet live to recognize the day of coming vengeance.

Lt. Gen. Ewell's corps has crossed into Pennsylvania, and seems to be moving upon Carlisle and Harrisburg, the capital of the State. Gen. Lee, with the forces of Longstreet and A. P. Hill is following up in supporting distance. Joe Hooker has had so much dust thrown into his eyes that he does not know what to do, or where to go. At the latest accounts his main body was hanging about Centerville, in order to cover Washington city. He must now either defeat Gen. Lee or be defeated. No body here doubts the result. "Chambersburg, Pa., surrendered quietly to Gen. Jenkins. At his command the militia brought in their arms amounting to several wagon loads. A part were sent back to Winchester, and the balance broke up or burned in the streets. Our troops are now doing a good work, in gathering up horses and cattle and sending them over here. About 1000 horses, and probably over two thousand beeves have already arrived. This is upon the principle of taking "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth." Yet I hope our men never will sink themselves to the low level of the yankee character by robbing helpless women and children of their tea-spoons and plundering hen roosts. By a Chaplain who has returned from Chambersburg, I understand the yankees of that region expressed themselves gratified that our troops exhibited so much leniency to them under the circumstances, as they had expected us to burn houses as well as take horses. The merchants opened their stores at command of Gen. Jenkins, and sold goods for Confederate money. In Maryland our troops are getting butter at ten cents per pound, and other provisions at kindred rates. All Pennsylvania is in wild excitement, and Abraham Lincoln, it is to be hoped, is trembling in the knees. The good work surely goes bravely on.

JOHN PARIS, Chap. 54th N. C. Reg.

Late and Important from the North.

The N. Y. Herald of the 24th ult., contains the following telegrams:

HARRISBURG, June 23.—Rebels reoccupied Chambersburg this morning. The troops under Knipe at Chambersburg have fallen back to the main body. Rebel cavalry, one thousand strong, advanced to Scotland, six miles this side of Chambersburg this afternoon. The enemy gutted all the stores at Chambersburg and Greencastle and depredated the whole country of horses and cattle.

7 P. M.—Our forces are falling back to Carlisle and the inhabitants preparing for flight to Harrisburg. Many citizens have skedaddled. Our poor farmers are driving off their cattle in crowds.

Several wagon loads of colored refugees arrived this evening, too frightened and excited to give any intelligent account. Great excitement at Pittsburg. Rebels reported at Union Town, forty miles distant. Business has been entirely suspended, and citizens, en masse, are digging entrenchments.

A Cincinnati telegram reports one thousand citizens of Indiana camped at Bloomington for the purpose of resisting the draft, and have pickets eight miles around. A town card says Vallandigham at the blockade successfully to Nassau, whence he will go to Canada.

PHILADELPHIA, June 25.—A dispatch says the excitement on the border remains unabated. Business at a perfect stand still, and the prospects of reaping the coming harvest are discouraging. Rebels are overrunning Franklin county. Two deserters came in this morning who report the whole of Gen. Ewell's corps in Pennsylvania. Rebels in force at Morrisburg.

HARRISBURG, June 24.—Every citizen has been in a high state of excitement all day. Rebels rapidly advancing in this direction. Strong force now two miles from Carlisle.

MIDNIGHT.—Rebels within 25 miles of Harrisburg. Philadelphia "Grey Reserves" still here and rise to be mustered in.

PETERSBURG, June 30.—Northern dates of the 24th received. The N. Y. Herald says the enemy progresses slowly but with large force into Pennsylvania. Affairs at Harrisburg bear a more quiet aspect, though the country people, with droves of cattle and horses, are rushing into the city, in large numbers. Preparations for defence are going on rapidly. Gen. Knipe has evacuated Carlisle, but at last account the rebels had not occupied the town. Much perplexity exists as to the exact route the rebels have taken. Early's division is at Gettysburg, and Rode's division is at Chambersburg.

Gen. Milroy has been superseded by Col. Pender. LATER.—The occupation of Harrisburg, by Ewell, lacks confirmation, but we are assured that our forces have possession of the town of York, which is situated on the Northern Central railroad, between Harrisburg and Baltimore, twenty-six miles from the former and fifty-six from the latter city. It is connected by rail with Philadelphia, which is distant, almost due east, about one hundred miles.

As our latest dates from Baltimore are only to the 28th, we think it highly probable that Ewell has occupied Harrisburg before this time.

Men, women and children, driving their live stock before them, are flying before our advancing columns, and the people are wild and frenzied with excitement, the alarm being far in excess of anything ever produced by their invasion of our soil.

With York in our possession, we command all the Railroads leading out of Baltimore with the exception of the short line to Washington and the main line to Philadelphia. Great alarm prevails at Washington and fears were entertained that the road between there and Baltimore would be broken by our forces.

We are assured that General Lee has thrown his whole force over the Potomac, and the enemy say that he is getting uncomfortably near to Washington. Old Abe and Seward have, no doubt, made all things ready for flight.

There is no doubt Gen. Lee has something in contemplation more than a raid, in force, into the enemy's country, but as yet his plans have not developed themselves to the uninitiated. We must be patient, assured in the end that all will be well, and that the present campaign of Gen. Lee will have a glorious termination.

REPORTS FROM OUR ARMY IN THE NORTH.—Intelligence received from Northern Virginia, on the 30th, represents that another severe cavalry fight had occurred at Aldie, between Gen. Stuart's command and the enemy under Pleasonton. This fight took place on Thursday 25th, and the enemy were completely routed, driven out of Aldie and pursued for some miles beyond.

Rumors say that our cavalry dashed into the very streets of Warrenton after this fight, and did not find a man to oppose them. Another report says that our cavalry went within twelve miles of Alexandria and returned, finding no enemy. The conjecture was that Hooker's entire army had been withdrawn to the north side of the Potomac, to operate immediately against the aggressive movements of Gen. Lee.

Gentlemen from the rear of our army in that quarter state the main army, under Lee, is now certainly in Maryland and Pennsylvania, the last division having crossed the Potomac on Thursday last.

They state that the army is now well supplied with everything, through an admirable arrangement made by Gen. Lee with the farmers and merchants of the two border States—that of selling at prices standing before the invasion, and receiving Confederate money or certificates, upon the same footing as yankee greenbacks.

In General Jenkins' first raid into Pennsylvania, he visited Fulton and other counties, and brought out 1,100 horses and a drove of cattle and sheep that extended for four miles.

On his second raid, down in the region of Gettysburg, he succeeded in getting out 1,300 horses, and a large drove of cattle. The prizes are now grazing in the rich pastures of the Lower Valley.

Some humorous stories are told of our men, upon occasions of purchase-making, when in a village or town over the border. The first of these stories, is that the soldier is amazed at getting so much for so little. Confederate currency being as above indicated, the established currency within our lines.

Richmond Enquirer.